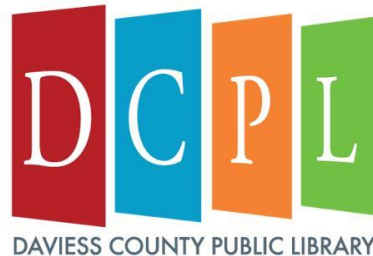


Subscription Boxes in Libraries

Sarah Jacobs



Where I Work: Owensboro, KY

Daviess County Public Library in western Kentucky

1 location, 57 employees

County population: 100,374

City population: 59,404

5 high schools

6 middle schools

52.3% of students receive free or reduced lunch



Teen Programming at DCPL

- 5 teen programs/month
- Teen volunteer program
- Maker kits
- Teen subscription boxes: “LibCrates”

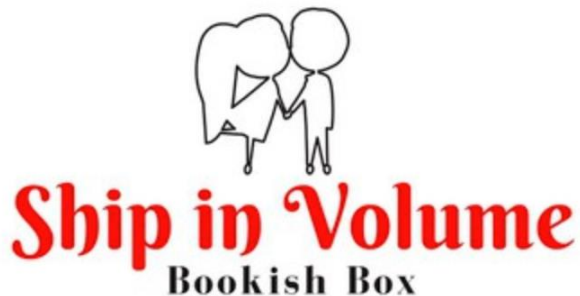


Subscription Boxes in the Wild:



Original Idea:

Came from a blog post on “Teen Services Depot,” written by Dawn Abron, the Teen Services Coordinator at the Zion-Benton Public Library in Zion, IL:



Goals of LibCrate Program:

- Get books into the hands of teens!
- Get teens excited about coming to the library and getting books
- Give teens the “subscription box experience” without requiring payment

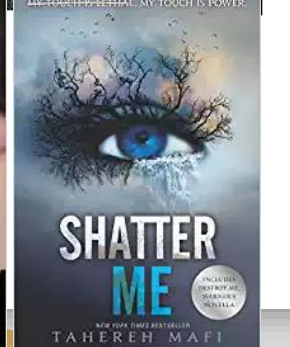
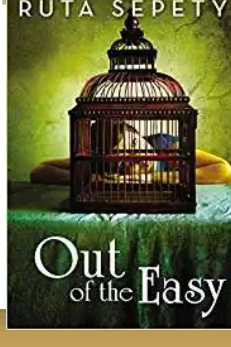
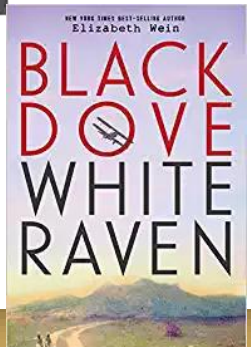
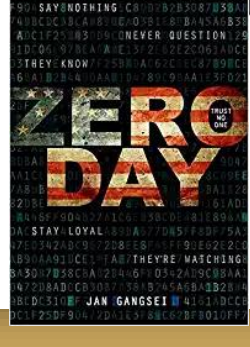
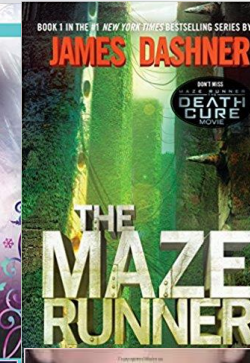
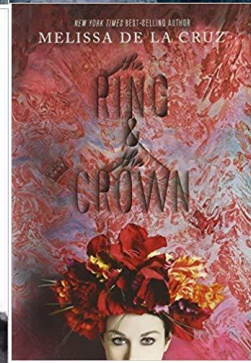
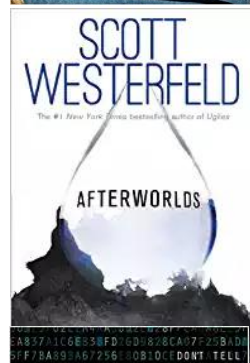
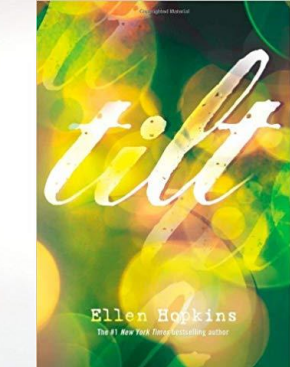
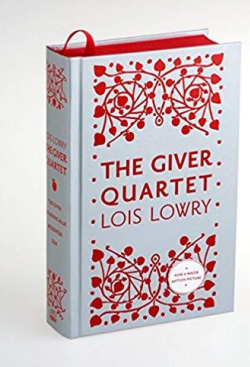
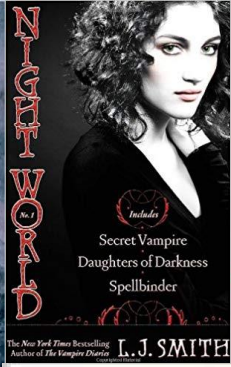
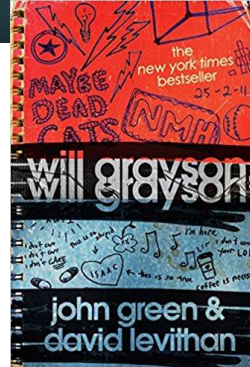


Providing equal access to quality
education for kids in need since 1992

First Book National Book Bank: Order cartons of publisher
overstock books and pay only shipping and handling

Have to choose from the books available on the website

Selection of books changes frequently



DCPL LibCrate



Composition of a LibCrate

- Cardboard box from Paper Mart
- Tissue paper
- Two YA novels
- 2-3 small goodies (candy, buttons, bookmarks, etc.)
- Calendar of upcoming library events
- Card explaining the contents of the crate



Monthly Themes:

May: Fantasy

June: Sci-Fi

July: Realistic Fiction

August: Thrillers

September: Historical

October: Horror



Procedure

- Patrons can register for a LibCrate online
- Registration is done on a month-by-month basis
- LibCrate registration become available on the first of each month
- Once they register, patrons have until the end of the month to pick up their crate from the library. If not picked up, it will go to the next person on the waitlist.
- Requirements:
 - Must be between 13-18 years of age
 - One LibCrate per family per month
 - When registering, patrons must check “YES” to the following disclaimer:
- *“I understand that Young Adult titles may contain controversial themes, mature content, and/or profanity. I accept that it is the responsibility of the teen and their parents/legal guardians to determine what is and is not appropriate reading material for a particular teen.”*

Stats

Since May 2018, we've given out:

- 171 crates, with
- 342 books inside

Total cost of books: \$162,
or about \$2/book

Total cost of boxes from
Papermart: \$512

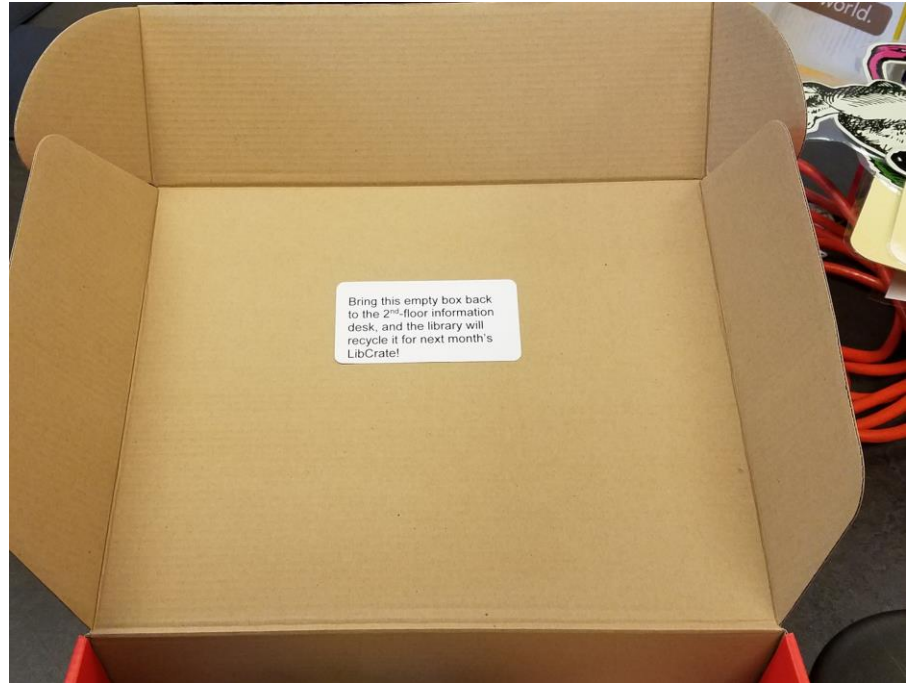
Total average cost/month:
\$112 or about \$4/LibCrate

Challenges: Meeting Demand

- Inaugural run in May 2018: 24 LibCrates
 - Within 3 hours of posting about the LibCrates on Facebook, we had filled up all the slots for May and June - 48 spots total
 - Over the next few days, we fielded dozens of calls from patrons who had to be told that the LibCrate registration was full

Strategies for Reducing Cost

Request that empty boxes be returned so they can be re-used (or use whatever boxes you have lying around!)



Strategies for Reducing Cost:

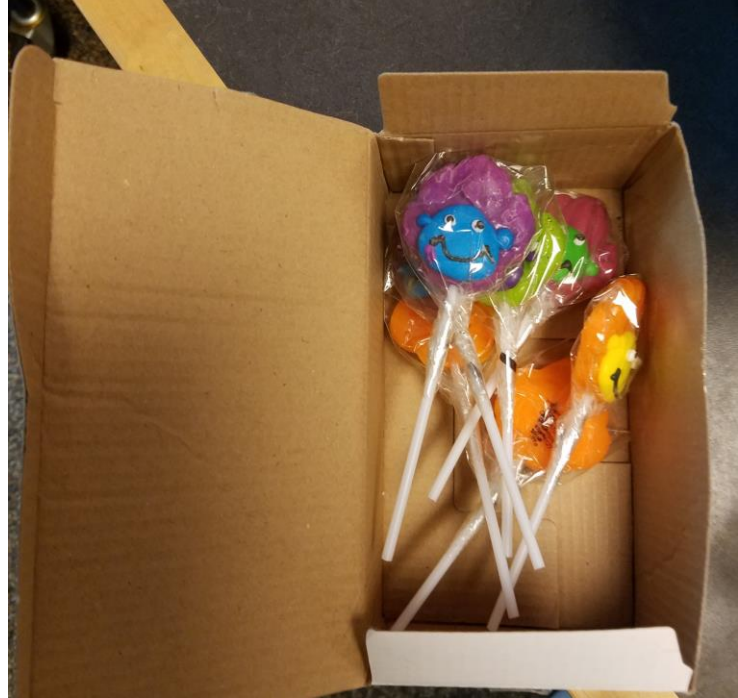
Fill your crates with
homemade or no-
cost goodies



Strategies for Reducing Cost

Look for sales or
bargains, or buy in bulk

*Opposite: \$12 for 48
lollipops from Oriental
Trading*



Challenges: Storage

I make up LibCrates 3-4 at a time to reduce the amount of storage space needed

I also have dedicated shelving in our storage area for LibCrate materials



Questions?

My contact info:

Sarah Jacobs

Teen Programming Coordinator

Daviess County Public Library

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Owensboro, KY 42301

sjacobs@dcplibrary.org

270-684-0211, ext. 248



Links

[https://teenservicesdepot.wordpress.com/2018/03/29/su
bscription-boxes-for-libraries/](https://teenservicesdepot.wordpress.com/2018/03/29/su
bscription-boxes-for-libraries/)

<https://firstbook.org/>

<https://www.papermart.com/>